

MEDIA RELEASE

18 January 2024



## Paramedic team put to the test in freezing Mongolia



History-in-the-making: QAS paramedics and their Mongolian counterparts work together in a training session in the EMS training headquarters in Ulaan Baatar.

Gold Coast-based paramedics Steffan Patron, Garry Harris (right) and Steve Strom (seated) demonstrated high performance CPR to Mongolian ambulance doctors as part of a Griffith University-led project to enhance EMS and disaster capacity.

They joined five other paramedics from Australia, PNG, Canada and Australia in the Griffith University-led project training 70 doctors, nurses and firefighters in prehospital care.

All the paramedics volunteered for the project, funded by the World Health Organisation, to share their skills and experience over two weeks for Griffith's *Roadside to Nationwide Mongolian EMS and Disasters* project based with the Centre for Social and Cultural Research.

Project leader Dr Hamish McLean said the reaction from the Mongolian medics was overwhelming.

"They wanted to learn as much as possible and really appreciated the skills of the Griffith University team made up of five different paramedic services who all shared similar life-saving techniques," he said.

Clinical Director Duncan McConnell said the train-the-trainer project would build the skills of doctors across Mongolia which had very limited emergency medical resources.

“Despite the challenges, our Mongolian colleagues are very dedicated to learning and improving their EMS capacity so more lives can be saved,” he said.

For the paramedics, there was one challenge they had to overcome quickly – retrieving and treating patients for an outdoor exercise in minus 30 degrees. Freezing conditions and frostbite took on a new meaning for the Gold Coast crew who had arrived from plus 30 degrees.

Contact:

*Dr Hamish McLean*

*0409840823*

*[h.mclean@griffith.edu.au](mailto:h.mclean@griffith.edu.au)*